

Department of Historic Resources
Reconnaissance Level Survey

Accomack

DHR Id#: 001-0027-0021

Resource Identification

Property Name(s): WFF # D-012G - Sewage Treatment Plant
Secondary Sedimentation Tank {Current}
Property Date: 1944
Address(s): Reeder Road {Current}
County/Independent City: Accomack
Vicinity of: Chincoteague
State, Zip: Virginia 23337
USGS Quad Name: CHINCOTEAGUE WEST
Surrounding area: Rural

National Register Eligibility Status

Property is Historic (50 years or older)

Resource Description

Ownership Status: Public - Federal
Acreage: 0.5

Primary Resource Exterior Component Description:

<u>Component</u>	<u>Comp Type/Form</u>	<u>Material</u>	<u>Material Treatment</u>
Foundation	Foundation - Slab	Concrete	Foundation - Poured
Porch	Porch - None		
Structural System	Structural System - Masonry	Concrete	other
Chimneys	Chimneys - None		

Site Description: Part of the Sewage Treatment Plant complex located on the north side of Reeder Road. Property is located in a level area in the northeast quadrant of the complex.

WUZIT Count:

<u>No.</u>	<u>Wuzit Types</u>	<u>Historic?</u>
1	Public Works	Historic

NR Resource Count:

Individual Resource Information

WUZIT: Public Works

<u>Est. Date of Construction:</u>	1944 {Owner/written data}	<u>Accessed?</u>	Yes
<u>Primary Resource?</u>	Yes	<u>Number of Stories:</u>	0.0
<u>Architectural Style:</u>	Other	<u>Condition:</u>	Good-Fair
<u>Interior Plan Type:</u>	Other	<u>Threats to Resource:</u>	Deterioration Neglect

Description: The structure is a long, rectangular sunken tank, composed of poured concrete and left open from above. The top edge of the tank is even with, or in some instances slightly above, grade level. The rectangular tank is divided into three sections. The middle section is deeper and longer than the two narrow outer sections to the north and south. The south section is separated from the main tank by a slotted wall and is covered with a metal grate. The main tank has four concrete piers which span between the west and east walls. A motor assembly on the south end connects to an axle that also spans the east and west walls. The axle turns two gears, which are attached to a chain system that has a series of wood planks used to stir the sediment. The chains surround a track system that directs the wood planks. The chain and tracks run just below the upper edge of the wall down the far end walls and along the bottom length. Like the southern section, the third, northern section is shallow and contains a drainpipe that extends from the east wall to the center of the section. A small rectangular section extends along a portion of the eastern edge of the main tank unit; the section and tank share the same south wall. A concrete walkway extends along the length of the east and north elevations. Metal guardrails wrap around the south side of the tank and along the outside edges of the concrete walkway. The tank and small extension are currently filled with water but do not appear to be in operation. A smaller Secondary Sediment Tank (001-0027-0029, WFF # D-100) was built along the western side of the structure in 1954.

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Cemetery Information

Bridge Information

National Register Eligibility Information

Historic Context(s): Military/Defense

Historic Time Period(s):..... Q- World War I to World War II (1914-1945)

Significance Statement: This structure, built in 1944, was used as a secondary sedimentation tank in the sewage treatment plant, one of two such complexes built on Chincoteague Naval Auxiliary Air Station (CNAAS) during World War II. The structure appears on a 1942 drawing entitled "General Plot Plan – Auxiliary Air Station, Chincoteague, Virginia" by Giffels and Valet, Engineers and Architects, Detroit, Michigan, grouped with other buildings and structures of the "Sewage Plant." Its function was again identified as "D-12G" on the 1950 "Map of Navy Auxiliary Air Station and Naval Ordnance Test Station, Chincoteague, Virginia" prepared by the U.S. Navy. The 1953 "Station Development Map – Naval Auxiliary Air Station, Naval Aviation Ordnance Test Station, Chincoteague, Virginia" prepared by the U.S. Navy identifies the structure as "Sec. Sediment Tank – Sewage Disposal Plant." The structure is located at the base of slope, just to the west of the Pump House (001-0027-0015, WFF # D-12) and the Rotary Biofilter (001-0027-0024, WFF # D-96) and to the north of and below the Primary Sediment Tank (001-0027-0018, WFF # D-12C); a small strip of lawn fronting a concrete retaining wall surrounds the immediate south and west sides.

The utilitarian structure is a component of a sewage treatment plant constructed at the end of the World War I to II (1917-1945) period. The treatment plant was built to service CNAAS. Established in 1943, CNAAS was used as a training base for Navy aircraft carrier squadrons that would be serving in the Pacific theater of World War II, and to enable Civil Air Patrol to conduct antisubmarine operations off the Atlantic coast. In 1946, the U.S. Navy expanded the mission of CNAAS to include the Naval Air Ordnance Test Station (NAOTS). By 1949, the U.S. Navy discontinued aircraft carrier training and in 1951 CNAAS became a Naval Air Facility, with a primarily research-based mission that corresponded with the mission of NAOTS until the base was closed in 1959. In 1959, the ownership of CNAAS was transferred to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and was renamed Wallops Station. Although it does not appear to be in use currently, the structure has essentially retained its original use throughout its history on the base.

The Sewage Treatment Plant Secondary Sedimentation Tank has been evaluated both as a contributing resource in a historic district and as an individual resource. Issues of significance, integrity, and district boundaries were carefully considered. A proposed district comprising this resource lacks integrity of design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association due to the removal of the majority of buildings from the period of significance (1936 to 1959) and the construction of later buildings. Thus a historic district here is not eligible under Criterion A, B, C, or D.

As an individual resource, it is not eligible for listing in the National Register or the Virginia Landmarks Register under Criterion A, B, C, or D as it is not associated with a significant event or individual at the local, state or national level; it does not embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or represent the work of a master, or possess high artistic values, or represent a significant or distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; nor does this property have the potential for providing additional information in history or prehistory.

The Sewage Treatment Plant Secondary Sedimentation Tank retains its integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, and feeling. Although remaining in its historic location, the structure's integrity of setting and association has been adversely affected by the changes made to the surrounding environment of the base of which it was a part; by 2004, the majority of buildings of this period have been demolished, changing the historic character of the physical environment of the structure's historic context.

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Bibliographic Documentation

Reference #: 1

Bibliographic RecordType: Map

Author: Giffels and Valet

Citation Abbreviation:

Notes: Giffels and Valet, Engineers and Architects, Detroit, Michigan. "General Plot Plan – Auxiliary Air Station, Chincoteague, Virginia." 1942.

Reference #: 2

Bibliographic RecordType: Map

Author: U.S. Navy

Citation Abbreviation:

Notes: "Map of Navy Auxiliary Air Station and Naval Ordnance Test Station, Chincoteague, Virginia." 1950.

Reference #: 3

Bibliographic RecordType: Map

Author: U.S. Navy

Citation Abbreviation:

Notes: "Station Development Map – Naval Auxiliary Air Station, Naval Aviation Ordnance Test Station, Chincoteague, Virginia." 1953.

Ownership Information

Graphic Media Documentation

<i>Medium</i>	<i>Depository ID #</i>	<i>Photo Depository</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>File Name</i>
35mm B&W	21541	DHR	2004/07/99	Frames 24-27
35mm B&W	21528	DHR	2004/07/99	Frames 18-19

Cultural Resource Management (CRM) Events

CRM Event # 1,

Cultural Resource Management Event: Reconnaissance Survey

Date: 2004/07/99

Organization or Person: URS Group

VDHR Project ID # Associated with Event: .. 2003-0571

CRM Event Notes or Comments: 200 Orchard Ridge Drive, Suite 101
Gaithersburg, MD 20878

CRM Event # 2,

Cultural Resource Management Event: Reconnaissance Survey

Date: 2003/08/08

Organization or Person: URS Group

VDHR Project ID # Associated with Event: .. 2003-0571

CRM Event Notes or Comments: 7101 Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 700
Bethesda, MD 20814